

IN THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, delete the heading "CLAIMS" and insert -- The

invention claimed is: --

Cancel claim 4 and non-elected claims 17-19 without prejudice.

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of an analyte of interest in a sample, the method comprising the steps of: providing a first surface having reversibly immobilised thereon a displaceable moiety, the displaceable moiety being immobilised on the first surface with an affinity lower than that of the displaceable moiety for the analyte of interest; exposing the first surface to a sample comprising the analyte of interest, the analyte of interest specifically displacing the displaceable moiety from the first surface; causing the displaceable moiety displaced from the first surface to contact a second surface bearing a capture moiety which specifically binds to the displaceable moiety, so as to capture the displaceable moiety on the second surface, said capture generating a detectable signal; and detecting the signal; wherein said detection is performed by means other than Surface Plasmon Resonance, and wherein the displaceable moiety cannot generate the signal which is detected in the assay unless and until the displaceable moiety is captured on the second surface.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first surface comprises a plurality of intervening molecules which bind to the

displaceable moiety, such that the binding affinity of the intervening moiety for the analyte of interest is greater than that of the displaceable moiety for the intervening moiety.

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Concl'd.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the intervening molecule is an analogue of the analyte of interest.

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16. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the analyte of interest is selected from the group consisting of steroid hormones, protein hormones, nucleic acids, peptides, bacterial and viral antigens, and immunoglobulins.

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Add the following claim:

22. (New) A method according to claim 8 wherein the intervening molecule is a mimotope of the analyte of interest.